

Message Text

SECRET

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40

ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00

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APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JDSTODDART

OSD/ISA/NESA:MR. PEYER

NEA/RA:MR. CHASE

PM/ISO:LTC FLEMINGS

----- 044283

R 081740Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

SECDEF

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CSAF

CARMISH/MAAG TEHRAN

JCS

S E C R E T STATE 179032

ALSO FOR U.S. ELEMENT CENTO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, MILI, IR

SUBJECT: F-111 DEPLOYMENT TO IRAN

REF: A. STATE 167241

B. TEHRAN 6032

C. CINCEUR 210946Z APR (NOTAL)

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1. SINCE EXCHANGE OF REFTELS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY DEFENSE OF POSSIBILITY OF LINKING F-111 DEPLOYMENT PROPOSED IN REF A TO UPCOMING CENTO MIDLINK EXERCISE. AS EMBASSY MAY BE AWARE THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN USCINCEUR AND CHIEF, U.S. ELEMENT CENTO ON POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF FOUR USAF F-111 AIRCRAFT AND THREE PACFLT SHIPS (2 DE'S AND 1 AE) IN ADDITION TO MIDEASTFOR UNITS PROGRAMMED FOR MIDLINK. F-111'S WOULD REPRESENT SLIGHT INCREASE IN LEVEL OF U.S. MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISE, BUT THERE IS MILITARY TRAINING BENEFIT TO BE GAINED BY F-111'S EXERCISING WITH CENTO MIDLINK FORCES. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING EXPANDED SCENARIO FOR PROPOSED F-111 DEPLOYMENT.

2. F-111'S WOULD DEPLOY AS OUTLINED IN REF C AND AFTER COMPLETING FOUR DAYS OF INDEPENDENT MARITIME SURVEILLANCE TRAINING, F-111'S WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AS PART OF U.S. FORCE COMPONENT TO MIDLINK, PROVIDING A CAPABILITY FOR SIMULATED STRIKE SORTIES AGAINST ALLIED SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISE.

3. IN EVENT F-111'S NOT APPROVED FOR PARTICIPATION IN MIDLINK, GOI APPROVAL WILL BE REQUESTED FOR INDEPENDENT DEPLOYMENT IN MID TO LATE OCTOBER, PER YOUR REQUEST IN PARA 2, REF B.

4. IN EITHER CASE, IIAF PARTICIPATION COULD INCLUDE GOI AND U.S. INTERPRETATION OF ANY PHOTOS TAKEN. PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN BY AIRCREW USING HAND-HELD CAMERAS AND NO SOPHISTICATED PHOTO-RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEM WILL BE UTILIZED. DURING TRANSIT TO AND FROM BANDAR ABBAS, AIRCREWS WILL BE INSTRUCTED NOT TO TAKE ANY PICTURES. SUBJECT TO IRANIAN DESIRES, THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION MIGHT INCLUDE PRE-MISSION PLANNING, USE OF IIAF GROUND CONTROL INTERCEPT FACILITIES AND PERHAPS USE OF AN IIN SHIP AS TARGET.

5. WE AGREE YOU WOULD NEED TO SOUND OUT GOI ON THEIR PREFERENCES RE PUBLICITY. WE ARE PREPARED TO DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PRESS STATEMENT FOR GOI COMMENT AND APPROVAL

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SUBJECT TO IRANIAN REACTION TO PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE F-111 DEPLOYMENTS. OUR PREFERENCE IS TO LOW-KEY F-111 DEPLOYMENT BY CITING THEIR PRESENCE AS PART OF OVERALL U.S. FORCE CONTRIBUTION IN CENTO RELEASE REGARDING MIDLINK. IN EVENT F-111'S ARE CONFINED TO INDEPENDENT U.S. TRAINING ROLE WE WOULD PROPOSE SIMILAR LOW-KEY RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ALONG LINES THAT AIRCRAFT WERE ENGAGED IN ROUTINE TRAINING DEPLOYMENT IN COOPERATION WITH IIN

AND IIAF.

6. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ELIMINATION STOPOVER IN
TEHRAN SINCE THIS ONLY PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IF DESIRED
BY GOI.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON FOREGOING. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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